

**State of Connecticut, Department of Mental Retardation
Southbury Training School Fire Department
DMR Fire Safety and Emergency Guidelines
INFORMATIONAL SHEET**

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

Most residential facilities are equipped with some type of fire detection and occupant notification system. These systems are crucial fire protection features to assure early detection and response in case of fires.

What are smoke alarms?

Smoke Alarms – Smoke alarms are devices that automatically sound a warning when visible or invisible smoke is near. Whenever possible, smoke alarms should be powered by the house electrical current with battery back-up and be inter-connected so that one detector sounding – sounds all detectors in the location, alerting all residents. *



What is a complete fire alarm system?

Complete Fire Alarm Systems generally include the following components:

1. Initiating Devices: Smoke Detectors - Heat Detectors - Manual Pull Stations
Once an initiating device is activated the alarm sounds in the building and may initiate an alarm to a remote alarm receiving station, which is staffed 24 hrs a day seven days a week, who in turn notify the Fire Department.
2. Main Control Panels: Located in the building, which monitors and activates the alarms.
3. Alarm horn & strobe system: Located throughout the building alerts the occupants via horn and flashing strobes that an alarm has been activated. *



What should be done if there is some sort of problem with the system?

1. Ensure that your facility management personnel or other appropriate agency personnel are aware of any problems, so that they may make provisions to have the system repaired.
2. In the event of a malfunction or if a building's fire system is deemed "OUT OF SERVICE" or not functioning correctly, a FIRE WATCH PROCEDURE shall be initiated. A building's occupancy is based on the fact that all fire safety systems (e.g., alarms, sprinkler systems, stove hoods, etc..) are in place and operational. In the event that a system is not working alternative measures must be in place to assure that fire safety is maintained. What type of fire watch is required shall be determined by your Authority Having Jurisdiction (State or Local Fire Marshal), who should be consulted in all cases fire protection systems are not functioning. *
3. The Authority Having Jurisdiction must be notified if any system is deemed "out of service" for greater than four hours Connecticut State fire Safety Code Section 7-7.6.*
4. Check your alarm monthly (usually during fire drills) and always report any "trouble conditions" or malfunctions to your facility management immediately.



* Indicates reprinted from the DMR Fire Safety and Emergency Guidelines

For more information on Fire Safety:

- Reference the revised 2005 DMR Fire Safety and Emergency Guidelines-
NOW available on the DMR Website: <http://www.dmr.state.ct.us/>
- Contact your Facility Management Personnel
- Contact your local Fire Marshal or Fire Department
- Contact the Southbury Training School Fire Department at 203-586-2444